

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 10009 061050Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HEW-06 SSO-00 SY-05 SS-15 /039 W
-----035105 061053Z /10

O 061041Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1412
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS MOSCOW 10009

DEPT PASS HEW FOR FISCHER

ROME FOR PETE BELL, MEMBER OF SECRETARY CALIFANO'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TPHY TBIO OVIP UR US
SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF ADVANCE PARTY FOR SECRETARY CALIFANO'S
TRIP TO THE USSR

REF: STATE 115532 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY CONTACTED MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MOH) ON MAY 6 REGARDING CHANGE IN ARRIVAL SCHEDULE FOR SECRETARY CALIFANO'S ADVANCE PARTY (REF). MOH OFFICIAL INDICATED THAT IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS TO ALLOW FISCHER TO ARRIVE IN MOSCOW ON MAY 9. MOH ADVISES THAT ALL THREE MEMBERS OF THE ADVANCE PARTY SHOULD PLAN TO ARRIVE TOGETHER IN MOSCOW ON MAY 10. MOH OFFICIAL PROMISED TO TRY TO GET VISA AUTHORIZATION SENT TO SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO ALLOW ISSUANCE ON MAY 6. (EMBASSY WAS UNABLE TO CONTACT MFA OFFICIALS TO OBTAIN THEIR ASSISTANCE FOR EARLY VISA ISSUANCE, ALTHOUGH MAY 6 IS ALLEGEDLY WORKING DAY IN MOSCOW. UNAVAILABILITY OF MFA OFFICIALS MAY REDUCE POSSIBILITY OF GETTING VISA AUTHORIZATION SENT TO SOVIET EMBASSY
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IN WASHINGTON ON MAY 6.)

2. ALL MEMBERS OF THE ADVANCE PARTY MUST HAVE SOVIET VISAS IN HAND BEFORE THEY CAN COME TO MOSCOW. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD ADVANCE PARTY ATTEMPT TO CARRY OUT PLAN IN PARA 1 OF REFTTEL; WHEREBY FISCHER WOULD HAND SOVIET VISAS TO OTHER TWO MEMBERS OF THE ADVANCE PARTY UPON THEIR ARRIVAL

IN MOSCOW. AIRLINES GENERALLY REFUSE TO ALLOW TRAVELERS WITHOUT VALID SOVIET VISAS TO BOARD PLANES BOUND FOR MOSCOW. IF THE ADVANCE PARTY DID MANAGE TO ARRIVE IN MOSCOW WITHOUT A SOVIET VISA THEY WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED
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ADMITTANCE AND WOULD RUN THE RISK OF CONFINEMENT IN AIRPORT "TRANSIT HOTEL" WHERE ACCESS IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT.

3. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT FISCHER MEET OTHER TWO MEMBERS OF THE ADVANCE PARTY IN ROME OR ELSEWHERE IN WESTERN EUROPE TO GIVE THEM THEIR SOVIET VISAS -- WHICH WE HOPE FISCHER WILL BE ABLE TO PICK UP IN WASHINGTON. ALL THREE MEMBERS OF THE ADVANCE PARTY SHOULD PLAN TO ARRIVE MOSCOW MAY 10. IF SOVIET VISAS CANNOT BE ISSUED IN WASHINGTON MAY 6, ALTERNATIVE WOULD APPEAR TO BE TO WAIT FOR ISSUANCE THERE ON MAY 10 OR ATTEMPT TO HAVE THEM ISSUED IN WESTERN EUROPE MAY 10.

4. WE WILL ADVISE DEPT AND HEW WHEN WE HAVE FURTHER INFORMATION. WE WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION FROM DEPT AND HEW ABOUT WHETHER ADVANCE PARTY IS ABLE TO OBTAIN SOVIET VISAS ON MAY 6 AND ON MOSCOW ARRIVAL PLANS OF ADVANCE PARTY.

5. DEPT PLEASE TELEPHONE THIS INFORMATION TO ROBERT FISCHER, HEW, OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH, TEL: 301-443-4560. TOON
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